

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00693 281305Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0693

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: FAHMY ON UPCOMING VISIT

FOLLOWING IS FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

1. IN MEETING WITH FAHMY AND MINSTATE MUHAMMED RIAD, WHICH HAS
JUST FINISHED FAHMY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT A NUMBER OF POINTS:

(A) NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS DURING YOUR VISIT: FAHMY SAID HE
MET YESTERDAY WITH KHADDAM AND CHIEF OF JORDANIAN ROYAL CABINET
SHARRAF TO DISCUSS YOUR UPCOMING VISIT. FAHMY WANTED US TO KNOW
THAT THERE IS CONSENSUS AMONG THEM THAT IF YOUR VISIT FOCUSES FOELLY
ON PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, ARABS WILL NOT VIEW
IT AS SUCCESS. THERE MUST BE SOME SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. FAILING THIS,
ARAB FONMINS OR SUMMIT MEETING LIKELY, WHICH WILL INEVITABLY
PASS RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL IN TURN MAKE PROBLEM MORE DIFFICULT.
I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WE HAD ALREADY TOLD HIM THAT YOU WILL BE
PREPARED TO MAKE SOME SUBSTANTIVE SUGGESTIONS. IN ANY CASE, I
DID NOT SEE HOW AN ARAB FONMIN CONFERENCE OR SUMMIT PASSING
UNHELPFUL RESOLUTIONS IS LIKELY TO FURTHER THE ARAB CAUSE. FAHMY
AGREED, BUT SAID WE SHOULD KNOW THIS IS THE PREVAILING STATE OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00693 281305Z

MIND. BEGIN'S PUBLIC COMMENTS WHILE IN THE US HAVE DEEPLY
WORRIED ALL ARAB GOVTS, WHO BELIEVE THAT ONLY WE CAN SALVAGE
SITUATION.

(B) KHADDAM'S COMMENTS ABOUT ALLEGED USG RENEGING ON COMMITMENTS:
ACCORDING MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD, KHADDAM TOLD FAHMY AND SHARRAF
THAT DURING TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND ASAD A NUMBER OF

"COMMITMENTS" HAD BEEN MADE ON WHICH WE HAD LATER RENEGED. SPECIFICALLY, WE HAD INITIALLY AGREED THAT THERE MIGHT BE MUTUAL RECOGNITION BETWEEN PLO AND ISRAEL TO HELP SOLVE REPRESENTATIONAL PROBLEM, BUT LATER CHANGED MINDS. ADDITIONALLY, KHADDAM ASSERTED WE HAD INITIALLY AGREED THAT PLO MIGHT ATTEND ON BASIS UN RESOLUTION 242, BUT WITH PROVISIO THAT "PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS" WOULD BE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED ON AGENDA. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE HAD CHANGED OUR POSITION TO ONE WHERE AGENDA WOULD SIMPLY CARRY PLO "RESERVATION" ON THAT PORTION OF 242 WHICH SPEAKS OF REFUGEES. KHADDAM CLAIMED RECORD OF TALKS, WHICH WHICH AMBASSADOR MURPHY HAD SEEN, CONFIRMED HIS COMMENTS. RIAD EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GOE IN THESE TERMS, BUT APPARENTLY ONLY WITH SYRIANS. I TOLD HIM I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY SUCH DISCUSSION OR ALLEGED CHANGES OF POSITION. AS HE WAS AWARE, OUR POSITION ON PLO REPRESENTATION HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AND TO MY KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT CHANGED.

(C) ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS: BOTH FAHMY AND RIAD VOICED UNHAPPINESS WITH LATEST ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK. (THEY HAD APPARENTLY NOT YET HEARD OF TWO NEW SETTLEMENTS PROPOSED FOR YAMIT.) WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR YOUR STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT, FAHMY CONTENDED THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN AS VIGOROUS IN OPPOSING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY AS WE MIGHT BE. IN HIS VIEW, IF WE MEAN WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OPPOSING SETTLEMENTS POLICY, WE CAN APPLY SOME PRESSURE (UNSPECIFIED) TO STOP SUCH ISRAELI ACTIVITIES. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED A UNSC MEETING FOCUSING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ALEXAN 00693 281305Z

SOLELY ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY. WE HAD TURNED THIS DOWN, ARGUING IT WILL NOT HELP THE ME PEACE PROCESS. HE VIEWED THIS AS A SERIOUS MISTAKE. SOME UNSC CONDEMNATORY ACTION WOULD, IN HIS VIEW, ASSIST US IN PRESSING THE ISRAELIS TO DESIST FROM THEIR SETTLEMENT POLICY. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE DO NOT SHARE THE EGYPTIAN ESTIMATE. OUR VIEW IS THAT A UNSC DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT WILL ONLY HARDEN ISRAELI POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE ME PEACE EFFORT AND WILL NOT CHANGE THEIR SETTLEMENTS POLICY. BUT ISRAELIS ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR VIEW THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR SETTLEMENTS AS FAIT ACCOMPLIS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES. WHILE THERE IS CLEARLY A DIFFERENCE OF JUDGEMENT BETWEEN GOE AND USG ON WHETHER SUCH UNSC DEBATE WILL HELP, HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR VIEWS HAVE BEEN ADVANCED IN GOOD FAITH AND IN NO WAY TO FACILITATE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY. FAHMY PERSISTED IN HIS VIEW THAT A UNSC DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT WOULD BE OF SOME HELP TO US.

(D) ARMS FOR EGYPT: FAHMY GRUMBLED THAT WE HAD NOT FIRST INFORMED GOE OF OUR INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH OUR EARLIER WEAPONS SYSTEMS OFFER BEFORE MAKING IT PUBLIC. FIRST WORD GOE HAD RECEIVED OF IT WAS THROUGH DEPT PRESS SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT BROADCAST ON VOA. HE UNDERSTOOD WE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH BEGIN AND THAT RADIO

JERUSALEM HAD MADE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. COULD I GIVE HIM ANY MORE DETAILS? I TOLD HIM ALL THAT I KNEW WAS DEPT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT, BUT THAT I WAS SURE THAT YOU WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WITH HIM WHEN YOU ARRIVE.

2. FAHMY SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL TO DISCUSS ABOVE AND OTHER SUBJECTS. AS I WAS LEAVING, HE REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE THAT GOE AND OTHER ARAB STATES ATTACH TO YOUR UPCOMING TALKS BEING OF A SUBSTANTIVE RATHER THAN MERELY PROCEDURAL NATURE.
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